
INTRODUCTION:

AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS

Course Overview

Course Purpose *Amphibious Operations (8808)* introduces you to joint landing force doctrine and subsequent operations ashore. The course is designed to explore the nature, capabilities, limitations, and characteristics of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) in an amphibious operation. Topics covered by this course include the phases within an amphibious operation, service and command responsibilities, planning considerations, service and joint issues, and other related subjects.

A Concerted Military Effort Through Integration Amphibious warfare integrates virtually every type of ship, aircraft, weapon system, and landing force in a concerted military effort against a hostile shore. As this course will demonstrate, the inherent naval character of an amphibious operation is reflected in the principles that govern the organization of the forces involved and in the conduct of the operation itself.

Usefulness of Amphibious Operations Beyond the flexibility it gives to strategic planners, the essential usefulness of an amphibious operation is its ability to concentrate balanced forces with which to strike enemy forces at a selected geographic point at the most opportune moment of time.

Unique Difficulties Although the benefits of amphibious operations are obvious, it must be noted that their use is not without some additional difficulties of their own, many of which are unique to amphibious operations. In particular, natural forces such as unfavorable weather, seas, surf, and features of hydrology present hazards that normally are not encountered in land warfare. Technical problems of logistics represented by loading thousands of troops and large quantities of materiel onto ships at widely-separated embarkation points, moving them to the objective area, and then landing them in exactly the proper sequence (usually on open beaches or landing zones, possibly under fire), all require extraordinary attention in the form of detailed planning.

Course Organization

Amphibious Operations (8808) is organized in the following manner with respect to lessons, reading hours, issues hours, and total hours for the course.

Lesson	Reading Hours	Issues Hours	Total Hours	Page Number
Lesson 1: Amphibious Operations Overview	1.5	1	2.5	1-1
Lesson 2: Amphibious Operations Command and Control	3	1	4	2-1
Lesson 3: Amphibious Intelligence Requirements and Systems	1	1	2	3-1
Lesson 4: Amphibious Planning Process	1.5	1	2.5	4-1
Lesson 5: Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and Amphibious Fire Support Planning and Execution	4	1	5	5-1
Lesson 6: Mine Countermeasures in the Littoral	1.5	1	2.5	6-1
Lesson 7: Expeditionary Logistics	3	1	4	7-1
Lesson 8: Supporting, Preassault, and Deception Operations	2	1	3	8-1
Lesson 9: Ship-to-Shore Movement and the Amphibious Assault	3	1	4	9-1
Lesson 10: Case Study: Okinawa	1	1	2	10-1
Lesson 11: Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF)	2	1	3	11-1
Lesson 12: MEU (SOC) Operations	1	1	2	12-1
Lesson 13: Operational Maneuver From the Sea and Ship-to-Objective Maneuver	2	1	3	13-1
Final Examination			2	
Total	26.5	13	41.5	

Reserve Retirement Credits

The total number of study hours required for this course, including the time for the comprehensive final examination, is 41.5 hours. For reservists, inactive duty retirement credits are awarded for every 3 hours of study time. **The total number of reserve retirement credits awarded to reserve officers for completing this course is 14.**

Course Objectives

Amphibious Ops and National Security

Evaluate the role of amphibious operations, including maritime prepositioning force (MPF) and MEU(SOC) operations, in support of national military strategy.

**Joint
Amphibious
Planning Process**

Analyze the joint amphibious planning process and its relationship to joint amphibious doctrine and to deliberate planning.

**MAGTF and
Amphibious
Operations**

Evaluate the roles, missions, capabilities, and limitations of the MAGTF and how they affect deployment and employment of forces during amphibious operations.

Course Description

Introduction	<i>Amphibious Operations</i> (8808) begins with an introduction which, along with Lesson 1, provides an overview for the course. The course sequence is as described below.
Organization and Planning Considerations	Lessons 2 through 4 of <i>Amphibious Operations</i> (8808) examine key organizational and planning considerations as they relate to the conduct of amphibious operations.
Naval Aspects of Amphibious Operations	The focus of the course then shifts to the Navy in lessons 5 through 7. These three lessons explore the Navy's role in amphibious operations, particularly naval surface fire support, mine countermeasures, and sea-based expeditionary logistics.
Amphibious Operations	The next two lessons provide further information regarding the actual conduct of an amphibious operation; lesson 8 addresses supporting, preassault, and deception operations while lesson 9 examines ship-to-shore movement and the amphibious assault itself.
Case Study	Lesson 10 presents an historical case study (Okinawa) of an amphibious operation that will demonstrate how the amphibious operational process works in practice.
Related Subjects	The course concludes with three lessons that examine subjects related directly to amphibious operations. Accordingly, the final three lessons cover the following topics: Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) Operations, MEU(SOC) Operations, and Operational Maneuver From the Sea and Ship-to-Objective Maneuver.

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Course Description, Continued

Course Themes There are a number of themes that run throughout this course that are related to other courses in the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP). These will not always be identified; hence, periodically refer back to this section.

wAmphibious operations in support of operational and strategic plans

wThe complexity involved in planning and in executing landing force operations

wStaff planning considerations and their interrelationships throughout the range of military operations

wMAGTF considerations in a joint environment

wAbility to adapt MAGTF doctrine and techniques to the changing conditions under which warfare is conducted

Course Readings

Required Readings

Some **required readings** are provided to you in the *Amphibious Operations Readings* (8808). These include articles from various professional magazines and journals and reprinted in annexes. Each annex is referenced in the course according to its sequence in each lesson.

Other **required readings** are provided to you in the *Joint Pub Readings* (8800); the *FM/FMFRP Readings* (8800); or the *FMFM Readings* (8800). These military publications are referenced under the section title "Required Readings" within each lesson.

Supplemental Readings

In addition to the mandatory readings, each lesson contains references or supplemental readings that you may peruse as you need them. They are not included with your course material.

Course Evaluation

Examination

The final requirement for *Amphibious Operations* (8808) is a proctored, 2-hour, machine-graded, closed-book examination. There are 50 complex, multiple choice questions. The examination questions are drawn from the information found in the Required Readings and the lessons.

This examination is content-based in nature; you should be very familiar with course content and subject matter both in preparing for it and then in responding to the final examination items.

There may be more than one answer that appears to be correct for a given item. You must choose the **best** answer.

Student Questionnaire

The examination packet for this course includes a student questionnaire. Please comment as the form instructs. Future changes in this course will be based, in part, on your comments and recommendations. **Please complete the questionnaire and remember: What really helps for the future are suggestions on how to do things better!**

How to Obtain Assistance

Contacting MCI The Marine Corps Institute (MCI) administers the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP). Questions concerning program, course material, grades or enrollment status should be addressed to the MCI PME HelpDesk by any of the following methods below.

wDSN telephone: 288-2299/0193 extension 303

wCommercial telephone: (202) 433-2299/0193 extension 303

wBanyan: PME HELPDESK@SSD@MCI (Search on "HelpDesk")

wInternet: helpdeskp@hqi.usmc.mil

wMail: Marine Corps Institute
ATTN: Registrar
Washington Navy Yard
912 Poor Street, SE
Washington, DC 20391-5680

Contacting CCE The Marine Corps University College of Continuing Education (CCE) provides enhancements to the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP) in the form of local seminars, video teleconferencing, a video library, and other products designed to enhance the student's learning experience. In addition, several Regional Development Centers (RDCs) have coordinators available to answer questions.

Address your questions about course content to CCE by any of the methods below. Ask for the *Amphibious Operations* (8808) course leader.

wDSN telephone: 278-4390/4324

wCommercial telephone: (703) 784-4390/4324

wToll free telephone: 1-800-992-9210

wBanyan: mcrc.mcu@mccdc

wInternet: cce@quantico.usmc.mil

wWeb page: <http://138.156.203.52/cce/cce.htm>